

- \* The utility should not be in default to PFC.

Project/Scheme related criteria:

Financial assistance is provided to those projects/schemes which meet the following criteria:—

- \* are techno-economically sound with Financial or Economic Rate of Return of not less than 12% (as may be applicable);
- \* are feasible and technically sound and provide optimal cost solutions for the selected alternative;
- \* are compatible with integrated power development and expansion plans of State/Region/Country;
- \* compliance to environmental guidelines, standards and conditions;
- \* schemes should have obtained the required clearances;
- \* all inputs required for the implementation and operation of the projects are tied up and proper procurement and implementation plans have been drawn up.

In case of environmental upgradation, meter installation, load despatch, computerisation and communication, R&D and non-conventional energy projects, the rate of return of 12% i.e. (economic or financial) may not be insisted upon.

#### **Power theft in the country**

1278. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of national loss incurred due to power thefts in the country for the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the steps suggested by the Review Committee in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government have formulated any policy to prevent power thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a) to (c) The national loss due to theft of power is not available separately. The percentage Transmission & Distribution losses including losses due to technical reasons and unaccounted losses being assessed by the concerned State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments from the year 1992-93 to 1997-98 are given in the statement (*See below*).

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Central Electricity Authority have reiterated its Guidelines for the reduction of Transmission & Distribution losses to all the SEBs in February, 2001.

Though power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removing illegal connection have to be taken care of by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction. Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under Indian Electricity Act, 1910, and the utilities have to effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb theft of electricity.

Some of the steps being taken by various utilities to prevent the theft of energy are as under:

- (i) Mass checking drive is carried out periodically by vigilance squads as well as field staff. Inspections are being carried out by the District wise units of engineers and prosecutions of erring consumers are launched by Police Officers manning the anti Power theft Squads.
- (ii) Installations are being made pilfer proof.
- (iii) A scheme for incentive to informants is in vogue. A scheme to recognize the performance of individuals, to curb theft of energy by providing incentive to deserving officers/employees has been introduced.
- (iv) Load inspection studies for major load centres are being conducted in routine.
- (v) Penalty for imprisonment is also being imposed on the culprits to create moral fear to avoid theft and violation.
- (vi) With the help of computerization of billing process, the abnormal consumption of consumers are being detected. If consumption is less than 15% of the average energy consumption, cases are immediately inspected for detecting tampering of meter/theft of energy.

In the Power Ministers' Conference held in February, 2000, the following resolutions were made.

- i. Energy Audit at all levels.
- ii. Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.

- iii. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.
- iv. Strengthening/up-gradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

In pursuance of the decision of the Power Ministers' Conference 100% metering programme has been taken up in two phases:

Phase-I Metering upto 11 K. V feeders and HT consumers by March, 2001.

Phase-II Metering of all consumers by December 2001.

Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), funds will be provided to the State Governments for implementing specific projects for improving the sub-transmission and distribution system including installation of State of the Art Electronic Metering system. With the implementation of these measures it will be possible to reduce both technical as well as commercial losses.

#### Statement

*Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution losses (including commercial losses such as pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs*

Region/ Scb/Ed	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern						
Haryana	26.78	25.00	30.80	32.39	32.77	34.04
Himachal	19.51	18.31	18.21	16.09	18.02	20.13
Jammu &	48.28	45.69	48.74	47.52	48.27	49.95
Punjab	19.24	19.37	16.70	18.49	19.10	18.94
Rajasthan	22.74	25.00	24.78	29.27	26.28	26.41
Uttar Pradesh	24.43	24.08	21.69	21.84	24.84	26.18
Chandigarh	26.21	27.27	28.44	33.72	21.88	22.38
DVB (Delhi)	23.56	31.79	34.56	48.57	49.08	47.91
Western Region:						
Gujarat	22.03	20.34	20.02	20.08	17.14	21.57
Madhya Pradesh	21.35	20.26	19.61	17.84	19.24	19.58
Maharashtra	17.83	16.22	16.33	16.95	16.55	18.75
D&N Haveli	17.98	12.64	11.35	09.31	08.80	12.90
Goa	21.85	24.50	26.87	26.06	23.50	31.02

[7th March,2001]

RAJYASABHA

I	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daman & Diu	15.67	22.34	16.30	12.80	08.15	14.69
Southern Region:						
Andhra Pradesh	19.88	19.91	17.95	19.34	33.19	32.14
Karnataka	19.55	19.55	19.41	19.06	18.73	19.31
Kerala	21.95	20.00	20.05	21.12	20.59	18.73
Tamil Nadu	17.50	17.18	17.11	16.19	17.65	17.29
Lakshadweep	18.72	16.99	17.84	17.23	15.11	15.70
Pondicherry	15.31	15.80	15.00	16.54	17.38	13.56
Eastern Region:						
Uttar Pradesh	22.00	20.35	19.76	15.91	25.31	16.26
Orissa	25.25	22.43	23.03	24.17	50.15	50.10
(GRIDCO)						
Sikkim	22.55	22.60	21.22	16.47	29.24	22.87
West Bengal	24.87	20.82	21.51	19.26	18.01	19.67
A&N Island	23.62	23.71	22.38	19.25	19.15	20.59
North Eastern						
Assam	21.41	22.44	24.18	26.91	25.97	27.32
Manipur	22.35	23.92	25.30	24.85	22.95	21.09
Meghalaya	11.79	18.03	18.47	12.55	19.75	12.28
Nagaland	27.26	33.45	36.12	35.17	26.81	29.79
Tripura	30.64	30.53	31.96	30.86	30.11	31.11
Arunachal Pradesh	32.32	42.04	45.30	37.12	32.61	34.10
Mizoram	29.04	31.89	29.76	25.18	34.35	46.84
All India (Utilities)	21.80	21.41	21.13	22.27	24.53	24.79

**FDI in Power Sector**

1279. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- whether Government propose to increase the foreign direct investment in the power sector;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether a decision has already been taken; and
- if so, the details thereof?